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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY China

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. In early March YEH Chieh (葉杰), commandant of the Whampoa Naval Academy, was transferred to Chinese Communist Naval Headquarters, and HSIAO Ching-kuang, naval commander of the Central and South China Military Area, ordered trainees at the Whampoa Naval Academy to finish their training by the end of April and prepare for a May offensive.
2. On 13 March an improvised mine-layer equipped with 50 mines left Whampoa, believed to be headed for the Bias Bay, Suatow, and Kuangchowwan (110-, 20-) areas. It is believed the mines will be laid in an emergency (sic). Naval officers are making soundings of coastal areas.
3. In mid-March approximately 1,500 seamen and fishermen enlisted in the Chinese Communist Navy. Of these, 500 are to be trained in the new training center at Whampoa, and the remainder will be sent to Yulin (109-34, 18-13) for training.*
4. In mid-March the former site of an iron ore mines machine factory at Anyu (晏遊), Ch'ungchou (110-21, 20-03), was converted into a Chinese Communist shipyard. Four freighters are being converted into naval craft at this yard.
5. On 16 March the Kuangtung Military District command sent 36 Diesel engines and 15 truck engines from Hsinfou (新塢), in the Whampoa area, to Hsinyu (新圩), Shenching (112-33, 22-01), on junks. They will be installed in junks which are to be turned over to the Kuangtung River Defense Headquarters.**
6. In mid-March the Chinese Communist gunboats HAIAN (海安), TALIN (大連) and CHUNGTAI (中臺), and a number of small craft of the Kuangtung River Defense Headquarters, were daily patrolling the mouth of the Pearl River and the Wanshan Islands area to prevent illegal entries into and departures from the Chinese mainland, and to obtain cargos smuggled from the Philippines aboard commercial ships, without having the ships call at China ports.

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7. On 31 March a Soviet light cruiser was at Ch'inhuangtao (119-35, 39-57). Approximately 300 officers and men from this ship were assisting Chinese Communist troops and 4,000 laborers in the building of fortifications in the area. Fourteen emplacements for long-range artillery were completed.
8. Beginning in mid-March the Chinese Communist authorities at Ch'umen (121-17, 38-15) were strictly controlling ship movements in that harbor. On 20 March 48 privately-owned junks were detained at the harbor by the authorities.
9. On 20 March there were approximately 25 junks in the Haimen (121-25, 38-43) area.
10. On 15 March 16 technicians of the Central and South China Military Area Command, supervised by SHIH Ho-nien (叶何年), arrived in Canton by rail from Hankow with 10 boxes of equipment. Their mission was to lay mines along the Kwangtung coast, and on 15 March they left for Huiyang (114-26, 23-05) to survey the coast.
11. On 20 March the Kwangtung River Defense Headquarters was laying mines along the east Kwangtung coast under the supervision of Soviet technicians.

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* [] Comment. [] the establishment of a Naval Personnel Training Center in the Canton area. [] for recent information on naval training in South China.

** [] Comment. [] for recent information on shipbuilding activities in the Pearl River Delta area.

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